

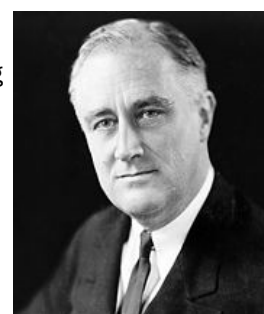
## BENITO MUSSOLINI

Benito Mussolini **founded Fascism** and ruled Italy as a dictator for more than 21 years. He dreamed of making Italy into a great **empire**. He **banned** all other parties and took control of industry, schools, the police and the **media**. Il Duce joined an **alliance** with German dictator Adolf Hitler. Both countries sent soldiers to Spain to **support** General Franco in the Spanish **Civil War**. In 1943 Mussolini was **arrested** but soon later **rescued** by German **commandoes**. In 1945 Italians who were against **fascism captured** Mussolini as he wanted to **escape** to Switzerland . The next day he was shot to death.



## FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

FDR, as he was also called, was the only president **elected** four times. He **served** for more than 12 years, longer than any other person. Roosevelt became president during the **Great Depression**, which was a hard time for American **economy**. One out of four workers had lost their jobs and many families had no money to buy food or clothes. President Roosevelt created a programme called the New Deal in which the **government** helped poor people , gave them work and paid for food and **shelter**. President Roosevelt tried to keep America out of World War II, but when the Japanese **attacked** Pearl Harbour the United States entered the war. Roosevelt was a strong leader **throughout** the war . He died shortly before the war ended in 1945.



## WINSTON CHURCHILL

Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of Great Britain during the Second World War. He was a strong leader and a talented speaker, writer and painter. Churchill held speeches that gave the British people hope and **courage** during the horrible years of the war. After Germany's **surrender** in 1945 Churchill lost his job as Prime Minister but returned in 1951. In 1953 he won the **Nobel Prize** for Literature.



## JOSEPH STALIN

Joseph Stalin was the dictator of the USSR from 1929 until 1953. During his **rule**, the Soviet Union became one of the world's greatest powers. In the late 1800s Stalin joined a group of Marxist **revolutionaries** . **Although** Stalin had not played a big role during the Russian Revolution he started **gaining** power. When Lenin died Stalin took control. He was a **ruthless** dictator , in many ways like Hitler, and had millions of people killed or **exiled** because they **threatened** his power or **opposed** his plans. After World War II the Soviet army stayed in the eastern part of Europe and Stalin set up communist governments there.



## HARRY TRUMAN

Harry Truman became president in the spring of 1945, shortly before the war in Europe ended . In August of the same year Truman decided to use the atomic bomb to end the war against Japan.



## DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Eisenhower became the leader of the **Allied** forces in Europe .He planned the invasion that led to the end of the war . After the war “Ike” became a very **popular** figure in the US and was **elected** president in 1952.



## HEINRICH HIMMLER

Himmler was one of the most **loyal followers** of Adolf Hitler. As the head of the German police he ordered the deaths of millions of people. He **committed suicide** in May 1945 after the Allied troops had **captured** him.



## JOSEPH GOEBBELS

Goebbels was Nazi Germany’s propaganda minister. He tried to **persuade** the Germans and the outside world to believe in Hitler’s **regime**. Goebbels controlled newspapers, radio programmes, **motion pictures** and the **arts** in Germany. At the end of the war Goebbels and his wife **poisoned** their six children and then he asked a Nazi soldier to kill them both.



## CHARLES DE GAULLE

General Charles de Gaulle was the most **outstanding** French patriot , soldier and **statesman** of the 20th century. He led the French **resistance** against Nazi Germany and **restored order** in France after World War II . He was the architect of a new **constitution** and became president in 1958.



**WORDS**

- **alliance** = when two or more countries agree to work together
- **Allied** = belonging to the countries that fought against Germany and Japan in World War II
- **although** =while
- **arrest** =to take a person to the police station because they have done something against the law
- **art** =paintings and drawings that show the ideas of a painter
- **attack** =to start using guns or bombs against an enemy in a war
- **ban** =forbid
- **capture** = to arrest someone or take a person prisoner
- **civil war** = war between two groups of the same country
- **commando** = a soldier who is trained to make special attacks
- **commit suicide** = to kill yourself
- **constitution** = the laws that a country has
- **courage** =to be brave and show that you are not afraid in a dangerous situation
- **economy** =the system of buying and selling goods in a country
- **elect** = to choose someone for an official position
- **empire** = a group of countries that is controlled by a ruler or a king
- **escape** = to get away from
- **exile** = if a person leaves their own country and goes to another country for political reasons
- **Fascism** = a system in which people's lives are completely controlled by the state ; no other opinions are allowed
- **follower** = someone who supports the ideas of a leader
- **found** = create, make
- **gain** = grow, increase, get
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **Great Depression** = the economic crisis after the stock market crash in the United States; in the early 1930s millions of people lost their jobs and banks and companies had to close
- **loyal** =if you always help your friends
- **media** = radio, television and newspapers
- **motion picture** = movie, film
- **Nobel Prize** = a prize that is given to a person for special things they have done.
- **oppose** =to be against
- **outstanding** = great, excellent, something special
- **persuade** = convince; to make someone believe you
- **poison** =something that can hurt you or lead to death if you drink or eat it
- **popular** = liked by a lot of people
- **regime** =a government of a country; mostly one that was not elected in a fair way
- **rescue** = save, set free
- **resistance** = group that fought secretly against the Nazis in World War II
- **restore order** =to stop crime and make people live in a peaceful way again
- **revolutionary** = rebel
- **rule** = govern
- **ruthless** = very cruel, brutal
- **serve** = here: to be President
- **shelter** = a place to live and sleep
- **statesman** = a leader who is respected in his country and in other countries
- **support** = help
- **surrender** = give up
- **threaten** =to say that you will hurt someone if they do not do what you say
- **throughout** = in all of